17. A NOTE ON *IDIOSCOPUS CLYPEALIS* (LETH.) (HEMIPTERA : CICADELLIDAE)

During local faunistic surveys of Poona and its surrounding areas I collected some Jassids on mango leaves from Nasrapur, about 40 km east of Poona. They were studied at the laboratory to find the nature and distribution of clypeal spots in both the sexes. Distant (1907) while examining the species observed ' face immaculate or with the small black median spots '. Capriles (1964) also made a similar observation, but while classifying the species, described the presence of the spots in the female. I, therefore made three collections in June, July and August 1968, in order to study the exact nature of the distribution of the spots in both of the sexes and the results are tabulated below :

Idioscopus clypealis (Leth.)

Date	♀♀		♂♂	
	No. of specimens with clypeal spots	No. of specimens without spots	No. of specimens with clypeal spots	No. of specimens without spots
21-vi-68	114	1	4	82
20-vii-68	109	—	6	85
22-viii-68	99	—	8	93

It is clear from the above data that the males also possess these spots although their number and ratio is very small when compared with those of the females. Almost all the females possess the spots.

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Poona,
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18. SEASONAL CHANGES IN THE POPULATION OF EPILACHNA BEETLE *HENOSEPILACHNA SPARSA* HERBST. (COLEOPTERA : COCCINELLIDAE)

(With nine text-figures)

Observations have been made by the authors on the seasonal changes in the population of Epilachna beetles, *Henosepilachna sparsa* Herbst. in the field and laboratory. The beetles were reared in the laboratory in rearing cages specially designed by Edona and Soans. Outside the beetles thrive on *Datura fastuosa* in the Malabar Christian College compound. Seasonal changes affect the population both inside the laboratory and outside, but outside the seasonal changes are more pronounced.

The presence of Epilachna beetles can be best determined by examining the leaves of *Datura fastuosa.* The leaves are seen eaten up in irregular patches with the thin upper cuticle of the leaf entirely or partly covering those areas. When the underside of these injured leaves is examined, one is likely to find epilachna beetles in one stage of development or the other.

The beetle population reaches its highest numerical strength about the middle of October and continues till the end of November. The favourable climatic conditions which succeed the rainy season seem to be responsible for this increase. Beetles breed rapidly and feed voraciously in the field. Both the larvae and adults feed on the under surface of the leaves skeletonizing them and producing a new crop of adults. Dry yellow leaves with practically all the tissue eaten and with a fine net work alone remaining indicates heavy infestation.

In the laboratory also beetles multiply rapidly during these days. Specimens with different elytral maculation appear during this season. The basic elytral maculation consists of 6 black spots always present on each elytron arranged as in fig. 1 ; but these may be augmented by the presence of 1-5 black non-persistent spots variably present (figures 2-6). Both persistent and non-persistent spots are variable in size, the former